

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC

FROM : SA [redacted]

SUBJECT:

[redacted] to
Congressman JOHN MELCHER,
Washington, D. C.

DATE: 10/25/72

[redacted] came into the Billings RA this morning and made inquiry regarding an article in the New York Times that the FBI had issued instructions to all field offices for background checks on all Congressional candidates and he wanted to know if this was true and if so, to what extent this inquiry went and what we were doing.

Mr. [redacted] was advised that no instructions were received in the Billings RA and we had conducted no background checks, however, the main office of the FBI was in Butte.

LDT:fpmc
(1)

↑ contacted ASAC at 11¹⁵ AM
and advised as below.

Asst. Director Bishop
telephonically advised
11:00 AM that [redacted] was informed
no such instruction received
Butte, but if he learned he should
contact FBIHQ.

62-2423-1

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
OCT 25 1972	
FBI - BUTTE	



5010-108-02

Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan

House of Representatives.

Honorable

John Melcher

Canada, B.C.

Dec. 1, 72

Dear John,

In regards to the murder of
my adopted son Jerry Charles Eder.
We have been thinking of my grandson
every day. There is a murderer
walking the streets of Reno Nev. a
free man. I want to see him
picked up by an F.B.I. to ask
Bill Beaver, who was with me on the
night of the murder of Charles Eder.
I've known him in the last 25 years,
also my wife. He let us camp in his
yard. I thought he was a fine man.
My wife and I. He was married to
my wife's niece. Then to top it off
I lost my wife in our trailer house
fire. I slept in the house as it was
more comfortable for me. I want you
to write to the F.B.I. and let me
know me know. Please.

Sincerely



Canada, B.C.

86505.

b6
b7C

62-2623-2

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
DEC 6 1972	
FBI - BUTTE	

JOHN MELCHER
SECOND DISTRICT, MONTANA
(ELEANOR MONTANA)

1641 LONGWORTH BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515
(202) 225-4415

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

AGRICULTURE
SUBCOMMITTEES:
LIVESTOCK AND GRAINS
FAMILY FARMS AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT
INTERIOR
SUBCOMMITTEES:
MINES AND MINING
INDIAN AFFAIRS
PUBLIC LANDS
PARKS AND RECREATION
ENVIRONMENT

November 22, 1972

Mr. L. Patrick Gray, III, Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Gray:

Enclosed is a copy of a letter from Mr. [redacted]
[redacted] of Ganado, Arizona, who believes he has
some pertinent information relating to the death
of his grandson in Reno, Nevada.

I would appreciate your assistance in having
agents from Arizona get in touch with Mr. [redacted] to
see if he can be of any assistance in this investi-
gation.

Sincerely,

John Melcher
JOHN MELCHER

Enclosure

62-2623-3

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
DEC 6 1972	
FBI - BUTTE	

December 4, 1972

62-2623
Honorable John Melcher
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C. 20515

Dear Congressman Melcher:

Your communication of November 22nd enclosing a copy of a letter directed to you by a Mr. [] of Ganado, Arizona, has been received.

b6
b7C

While we would like to be of assistance, the information set forth by Mr. [] does not indicate a violation of any law over which the FBI has jurisdiction. Murder is not a Federal offense with few exceptions such as crimes on Government reservations. If Mr. [] has any additional information which he believes might bring this matter within our jurisdiction, it would be appreciated if he would furnish it to our office located at 2721 North Central Avenue, Phoenix, Arizona 85013.

b6
b7C

Sincerely yours,
For the Acting Director


W. Mark Felt
Acting Associate Director

- ① - Butte - Enclosure
- 1 - Phoenix - Enclosures (2)
- 1 - Las Vegas - Enclosures (2)

CONSOLIDATED
Date 8/1/73 Initials J

62-2623-4

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
DEC 6 1972	
FBI - BUTTE	

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

FGF notes state law on merger

Recent Forward Great Falls appeals for consolidation of city and county law enforcement agencies were revealed as futile Monday by an FGF member who produced a copy of a state law which permits consolidation of police departments and sheriff's offices in counties "other than first and second class counties."

Arlene Reichert said the law allows small population counties to consolidate the law enforcement agencies, but in larger counties, like Cascade County, the agencies can only cooperate in law enforcement efforts.

The obscure law, which Mrs. Reichert said most local officials are unaware of, allows consolidation of police and sheriff's departments under the sheriff, who may be elected or appointed by the commission in a city-county government.

"The exception of first and second class counties from the law is most glaring," Mrs. Reichert remarked.

City Manager Dick Thomas said the city and county commissioners have discussed cooperation between the respective law enforcement agencies. He said he couldn't name any specific areas of possible cooperation, but he noted that the new police facilities to be built in the donated General Motors Building were designed to duplicate as little as possible of county facilities. He said the new police headquarters will include only minimum security holding facilities.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Date: 12/18/73
Edition: CITY FINAL
Author:
Editor: WM D JAMES
Title: EXEC. EDITOR

Character:

or

Classification:

Submitting Office: BUTTE

☐ Being Investigated

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
DEC 19 1973	
FBI - BUTTE	

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Melcher violated federal land rules for 4 years

HELENA — Eastern District Congressman John Melcher was in violation of federal regulations in the leasing of a small tract of BLM land near his Forsyth home for nearly four years, the Tribune has learned.

The Montana Democrat is chairman of the House Subcommittee on Public Lands, which deals with BLM affairs.

Melcher had leased the 40-acre tract for a number of years before his election to congress in 1969, and continued to lease it until early this year when a neighbor pointed out the conflict to the district BLM office in Miles City. That was after Melcher had renewed his lease in February.

One of the permit conditions, as printed on the back of the permit, is that no member of Congress may lease federal grazing lands.

The land in question is described by BLM District Manager Kannon Richards as rough break-type country with deep draws. The 40 acres is rated by the BLM as providing only enough grazing for one cow for six months.

But it divides two pieces of Melcher Property — is home place which has water, and 240 acres of grazing land which has no water.

Richards said the district BLM office manages 2,200 leases "and this one just slipped by" until Melcher's neighbor, Joseph Kurkowski, raised the question.

Melcher apologized when it was brought to his attention, and said the conflict just never occurred to him, Richards said. His only concern was how to get his cattle from his home ranch to the grazing property.

Kurkowski then applied for a lease on the land. It was granted by Richards with one exception: Melcher was given a right-of-way across the land to get his cattle back and forth. This stock pass consisted of some 12 acres out of the 40 acres. Kurkowski objected. His appeal was sent to the Board of Land Appeals in Arlington, Va., where it is pending.

Richards says Kurkowski just wanted to give Melcher a 35-foot right-of-way along the south boundary of the 40. "But the terrain wouldn't allow it," Richards said. "That would just be running those cows right up against the fence and straight up and downhill. So we went over about a thousand feet to the ridge line and left a natural trail. So he appealed it. So I just shipped the thing off back East. It appeared to me that there must be something going on between the two that I didn't understand."

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Page 5
The Gt. Falls Tribune
Gt. Falls, Montana

Date: 12/18/73
Edition: FINAL
Author:
Editor: Wm. D. JAMES
Title:
CONGRESSMAN JOHN
MELCHER
Character:
or
Classification: 62-2623-6
Submitting Office: Butte
☐ Being Investigated

Original Run

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